

# SIGNED THE TREATY

## The Act Which Crowned with Success the Portsmouth Conference.

Historical Document Completed—Ceremony Was Simple and Brief—Synopsis of the Document Containing Seventeen Articles Which It Is Hoped Will Provide for a "Just and Lasting Peace."

Portsmouth, N. H., Sep. 6.—The treaty of Portsmouth was signed shortly before 4 o'clock Tuesday afternoon in the conference room of the navy general store at the navy yard. The firing of a national salute of 19 guns was the signal which told the people of Portsmouth, Kittery and Newcastle that the peace of Portsmouth was an accomplished fact, and the church bells in the three towns were soon pealing forth a joyful refrain.

For 47 minutes those outside the conference room anxiously awaited the signal. Suddenly an orderly dashed to the entrance of the peace building and waived his hand to the gunner a few feet away and the opening shot of the salute rang out on the clear air of the soft September afternoon proclaiming peace between Russia and Japan.

Three o'clock was the hour set for the final session of the conference an hour before that time a heavy thunderstorm was in progress, but as Mr. Witte and Baron De Rosen left the hotel in an automobile at 2:25 o'clock for the navy yard, the rain had stopped. When Baron Komura and Mr. Takahira entered their automobile 20 minutes later the sun suddenly shone which called for the remark from Baron Komura "It is good omen for peace."

This remark was cheered by the crowd gathered to see the Japanese depart.

The Russian plenipotentiaries reached the yard at a quarter of three and received an ambassadorial salute of 18 guns. The yard presented a lively scene as the automobile bearing Mr. Witte and Baron DeRosen dashed up to the conference building. On one side in special full dress were two companies of marines commanded by Maj. Moses who rendered the prescribed honors as Mr. Witte and Baron DeRosen passed their front.

The Russians went at once to their private offices adjoining the conference room to await the arrival of the Japanese who did not reach the navy yard until 3 o'clock.

Baron Komura and Mr. Takahira were also saluted with 19 guns as they entered the yard. They were ushered at once to the Japanese office at the east end of the conference room. Then the Russian secretaries immediately came over and began the comparative reading of the Russian and Japanese copies which required about 20 minutes. Upon the completion of this task they prepared the two copies of the protocol of the final sitting, leaving only the exact hour to be filled in.

It was just 3:45 o'clock when the plenipotentiaries entered the conference room from their respective offices. They merely bowed to each other and took their accustomed seats at the long table around which their negotiations have been conducted. Instead of the secretaries sitting next the plenipotentiaries, however, these chairs were occupied by the remaining delegates. Mr. Witte sat at the center of the table facing the window. On his right was Baron DeRosen, and Capt. Roussine, the latter occupying the seat of Mr. Martens, who was detained at the hotel by indisposition. On Mr. Witte's left sat Mr. Pokotloff and General Fernaloff.

Baron Komura with Mr. Takahira and Mr. Sato on his right and Mr. Denison and Mr. Yamaza on his left. At one end of the table sat Mr. Plancon with the Russian originals of treaty in French and English and the final protocol. Grouped around the table where the other members of the two missions and the invited witnesses.

Mr. Peirce, the third assistant secretary of state, as the personal representative of the president; Admiral Mead, commandant of the navy yard; Capt. Winslow, commanding the Mayflower; the governor of New Hampshire and the mayor of Portsmouth.

As soon as the delegates had taken their seats, Mr. Sato left his chair and went to Mr. Witte's side with the Japanese copies of the treaty, which he placed before him. At the same time Mr. Plancon placed the Russian copies of the treaty before Baron Komura. Almost at the same moment the two selected pens from the center of the table and signed their names first to the French and then to the English text. The copies were then signed by Baron Rosen and Mr. Takahira. Mr. Sato returned the Japanese copies for the signatures of Baron Komura and Mr. Takahira. Mr. Witte and Baron DeRosen affixed their signatures to the Russian copies and the treaty of Portsmouth was signed, the ceremony being completed at 3:50.

To this moment no word had broken the silence of the room. Throwing his pen aside, Mr. Witte, without a word, reached across the table and grasped Baron Komura's hand. His conferees followed, and the Russian and Japanese delegates remained for a moment in silence, their right hands tightly clasped across the conference table. The war was over. Russia and Japan were once more friends.

This simple ceremony rang true and deeply impressed the attaches and secretaries of the two missions, who with the invited witnesses had formed a large circle around the delegates sitting at the table.

Baron DeRosen was the first to break the silence. Rising from his seat, the ambassador, looking Baron Komura and Mr. Takahira straight in the eyes, said a few words which one had only to hear to know that they came from his heart. He began by saying that he wished on behalf of Mr. Witte, Russia's plenipotentiary, and in his own name, to say a few words.

"We have just signed," continued the ambassador, "an act which will have forever a place in the annals of history. It is not for us active participants in the conclusion of this treaty to pass judgment on its import and significance. As negotiators on behalf of the empire of Russia, as well as the empire of Japan, we may with tranquil conscience say that we have done all that was in our power in order to bring about the peace for which the whole civilized world was longing. As plenipotentiaries of Russia we fulfill a most agreeable duty in acknowledging that in negotiating with our hitherto adversaries, and from this hour our friends, we have been dealing with true and thorough gentlemen, to whom we are happy to express our high esteem and personal regard. We earnestly hope that friendly relations between the two empires will henceforth be firmly established and we trust that his excellency, Baron Komura, as minister of foreign affairs and one of the leading statesmen of his country, will apply to the strengthening of these relations the wide experience and wise statesmanship he so conspicuously displayed during these negotiations which have now been so auspiciously concluded."

Baron Komura replied that he shared entirely the views of Baron DeRosen. The treaty of peace which they had just signed, he said, was in the interest of humanity and civilization and he was happy to believe that it would bring about a firm, lasting peace between two neighboring empires.

He added that it would always be pleasant for him to recall that throughout the long and serious negotiations which they have now left behind them, he and his colleagues had invariably received from the Russian plenipotentiary the highest courtesy and consideration and finally he begged to assure the Russian plenipotentiaries that it would be his duty as well as his pleasure to do everything in his power to make the treaty in fact what it professed to be in words—a treaty of peace and amity.

At the conclusion of Baron Komura's remarks Mr. Witte arose and said he desired to see Baron DeRosen and the Japanese plenipotentiaries alone for a few minutes. The four retired to the Russian office and were closeted for ten minutes. What transpired in that final conference of the peace-makers, the world may never know. The plenipotentiaries have refused to discuss it even to their secretaries.

While the conference was in progress the secretaries were affixing the official seal to the treaty, there being four seals to each of the four copies. Upon their return to the conference, the plenipotentiaries then signed the protocol of their last meeting which records the signing of the treaty, September 5, 1905, at 3:50 at the Portsmouth navy yard.

### Synopsis of Treaty.

Portsmouth, Sept. 6.—The peace treaty opens with a preamble reciting that his majesty the emperor and autocrat of all the Russias and his majesty the emperor of Japan desiring to close the war now subsisting between them and having appointed their respective plenipotentiaries, and furnished them with full powers which were found to be in form have come to an agreement on a treaty of peace and arranged as follows:

Article 1.—Stipulates for the re-establishment of peace and friendship between the sovereigns of the two empires and between the subjects of Russia and Japan respectively.

Article 2.—His Majesty, the emperor of Russia recognizes the preponderant interest from political, military and economical points of view of Japan in the empire of Korea and stipulates that Russia will not oppose any measures for its government, protection or control that Japan will deem necessary to take in Korea in conjunction with the Korean government but Russian subjects and Russian enterprises are to enjoy the same status as the subjects and enterprises of other countries.

Article 3.—It is mutually agreed that the territory of Manchuria be simultaneously evacuated by both Russian and Japanese troops. Both countries being concerned in this evacuation their situations being absolutely identical. All rights acquired by private persons and companies shall remain intact.

Article 4.—The rights possessed by Russia in conformity with the lease by Russia of Port Arthur and Dalney together with the lands and waters adjacent shall pass over in their entirety to Japan but the properties and rights of Russian subjects are to be safeguarded and respected.

Article 5.—The governments of Russia and Japan engaged themselves reciprocally not to put any obstacles to the general measures (which shall be alike for all nations) that China may take for the development of the commerce and industry of Manchuria.

Article 6.—The Manchurian railway shall be operated jointly between Russia and Japan at Kouang-Tcheng-Tse. The two branch lines shall be employed only for commercial and industrial purposes. In view of Russia keeping her branch line with all rights acquired by her convention with China for the construction of that railway, Japan acquires the mines in connection with such branch lines which falls to her. However, the rights of private parties or private enterprises are to be respected. Both parties to this treaty remain absolutely free to undertake what they deem fit on expropriated grounds.

Article 7.—Russia and Japan engage themselves to make a conjunction of the two branch lines which they own, at Kouang-Tcheng-Tse.

Article 8.—It is agreed that the branch lines of the Manchurian railway shall be worked with a view to assure commercial traffic between them without obstruction.

Article 9.—Russia cedes to Japan the southern part of Sakhalin Island as far north as the fiftieth degree of north latitude together with the islands depending thereon. The right of free navigation is assured in the bays at La Perouse and Tartare.

Article 10.—This article recites the situation of Russian subjects on the southern part of Sakhalin island and stipulates that Russian colonists there shall be free and shall have the right to remain without changing their nationality. Per contra, the Japanese government shall have the right to force Russian convicts to leave the territory which is ceded to her.

Article 11.—Russia engages herself to make an agreement with Japan giving to Japanese subjects the right to fish in Russian territorial waters of the sea of Japan, the sea of Okhotsk and Behring sea.

Article 12.—The two high contracting parties engage themselves to renew the commercial treaty existing between the two governments prior to the war in all its vigor with slight modifications in details and with a most favored nation clause.

Article 13.—Russia and Japan reciprocally engage to retribute their prisoners of war on paying the real cost of keeping the same such claim for cost to be supported by documents.

Article 14.—The peace treaty shall be drawn up in two languages, French and English, the French text being evidence for the Russians and the English text for the Japanese. In case of difficulty of interpretation the French document to be final evidence.

Article 15.—The ratification of this treaty shall be countersigned by the sovereigns of the two states within 50 days after its signature. The French and American embassies shall be intermediaries between the Japanese and Russian governments to announce by telegraph the ratification of the treaty.

Two additional articles are agreed to as follows:

Article 1.—The evacuation of Manchuria by both armies shall be complete within 18 months from the signing of the treaty beginning with the retirement of troops of the first line. At the expiration of the 18 months the two parties will only be able to leave as guards for the railway 15 soldiers per kilometre.

Article 2.—The boundary which limits the parts owned respectively by Russia and Japan in the Sakhalin island shall be definitely marked off on the spot by a special limitographic commission.

### Gov. Johnson to Sign Deeds.

Muskogee, I. T., Sept. 6.—The long controversy between the department of the interior at Washington and Gov. Johnson, of the Chickasha nation, over the signing of Indian allotments was brought to a close here Tuesday when Gov. Johnson notified Commissioner Bixby that he had decided to sign the deeds.

### Severe Surgery.

The following conversation recently took place in India:

Physician (with his ear to the patient's breast)—There is a curious swelling over the region of your heart, sir, which must be relieved at once.

Patient (anxiously)—That "swelling" is my pocketbook, doctor. Please don't reduce it too much.—Medical Record.

### Defined.

"Papa, what is the Panama canal?" "My son, it's a long line of politics extending across the isthmus of Panama."—Life.

A man is likely to get along very well in the world if he can make himself realize there are some people who know as much as he does.—N. Y. Press.

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Do not believe Piso's Cure for Consumption has an equal for coughs and colds.—J. F. Boyer, Trinity Springs, Ind., Feb. 15, 1900.

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